

PRESS COUNCIL
OF IRELAND



OFFICE OF
THE PRESS
OMBUDSMAN

ANNUAL REPORT

2017



THE PRESS COUNCIL OF
IRELAND AND THE OFFICE
OF THE PRESS OMBUDSMAN
EXIST TO SAFEGUARD AND
PROMOTE PROFESSIONAL AND
ETHICAL STANDARDS IN IRISH
NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES AND
ONLINE NEWS PUBLICATIONS.

RIDERS ON THE STORM

by Clodagh Kilcoyne

Runners and riders participate in the Christmas Ballyheigue beach horse race in Co. Kerry.

All photographs used in this report were taken by members of the Press Photographers Association of Ireland and featured in their PPAI National Photo Awards 2018 competition. We are grateful for permission to reproduce these images in our Annual Report.

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INTRODUCTION

PRESS COUNCIL OF IRELAND

The Press Council of Ireland is responsible for the oversight of the professional principles embodied in the Code of Practice, and with upholding the freedom of the press. It operates with the support and cooperation of member publications and journalists. It decides on appeals from decisions of the Press Ombudsman and on complaints referred to it directly by the Press Ombudsman. It is independent of both government and media.

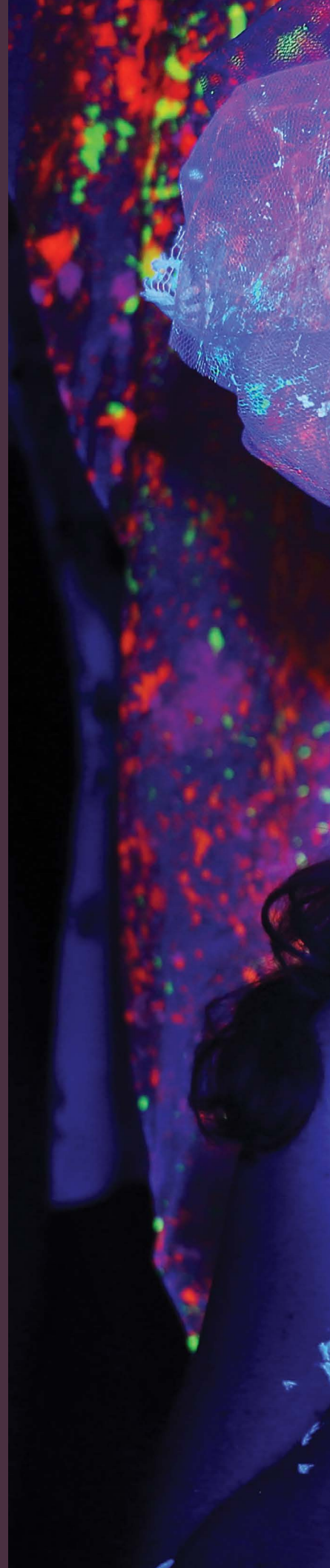
OFFICE OF THE PRESS OMBUDSMAN

The Office of the Press Ombudsman receives complaints from members of the public and seeks to resolve them by conciliation or mediation to the satisfaction of everyone concerned. Where conciliation or mediation is not possible, the Press Ombudsman will make a decision on the complaint based on the Code of Practice.

COLOURFUL CULTURE

by Sasko Lazarov

Pictured are Laura Sarah Dowdall, Dance Ireland, Blackrock and Dagmara Jerzak, Dance Ireland, Portobello, at the launch of Culture Night 2017.





CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

In my annual report last year, I welcomed the fact that the Minister for Justice had undertaken a review of the 2009 Defamation Act and its operation. The Act required a review after five years.

The Press Council of Ireland was among the organisations to make a detailed submission as part of the public consultation process. Our focus was on amendments in the interests of press freedom. This was because erratic and disproportionate defamation awards, together with their associated legal costs, have a chilling effect upon press freedom and upon the right of the public to be informed of issues that the press considers to be significant. A free, independent and vibrant press, holding governments and those in authority to account, should not be constrained by damaging defamation laws.

The main points contained in our submission were as follows.

- The current defamation process is costly for all parties and frequently results in awards that are excessive by comparison with other European countries. We suggested that cases should be heard in the Circuit Court where there would be a limit on costs and potential awards. In cases where larger amounts are being sought, the hearings might be in the Commercial Court. In all cases there should be a limit on the role of juries in deciding the amount of awards.
- One of the matters that a court can take into consideration when determining whether it was fair and reasonable to publish an alleged defamatory statement is the extent to which a person adhered to the Press Council's Code of Practice and abided by determinations of the Press Ombudsman and Press Council. We suggested that this section be amended and strengthened to encourage all publications to join the Press Council.
- While acknowledging that a balance must be maintained between the right to publish and individuals' rights to their reputation, the Council was concerned that the media's confidence in publishing robust commentary was being threatened by the fear of unfair and unjust threats of defamation actions by individuals or companies who had been fairly criticised. We suggested that any consideration of the current defamation regime needs to take account of this.



LOVE BIRDS

by Marc O’Sullivan

Birds in Dublin’s Phoenix Park pictured against the moonlight.

It is a source of considerable disappointment that some 15 months after submissions have been received, there has been no response from the Minister and no apparent progress in the overdue review of the Act.

Meanwhile, in June 2017, the European Court of Human Rights described the high level of damages awarded in one Irish case as representing “a violation of freedom of expression”.

It is to be hoped that there will be no further delay in completing the review and amending the Act. Publications in Ireland, as elsewhere, are under increasing pressure from alternative, unregulated sources of news in relation to which the Government can take little effective action. In relation to the reform of defamation, however, action is entirely a matter within the competence of Government and

the Press Council asks that the necessary steps are taken as a matter of urgency.

When people are defamed they are entitled to court awards to compensate for their wrongful loss of reputation. But if the award is so large that publishers run the risk of going out of business there is a real risk that democracy will suffer through the suppression of the means of communicating facts and opinions.



SEÁN DONLON

Chairperson



STATISTICS

IN 2017, A TOTAL OF 330 COMPLAINTS WERE RECEIVED. THEY WERE PROCESSED AS FOLLOWS:

21 **DECIDED BY THE PRESS OMBUDSMAN**
(SEE PAGE 7 FOR BREAKDOWN)

31 **COMPLAINT RESOLVED BY THE EDITOR TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE COMPLAINANT**

Fifteen complaints were resolved through the Office's formal conciliation process and 16 complaints were resolved by the editor when the complainant, after submitting the initial complaint to the Office and receiving advice, then forwarded the complaint to the editor, and the editor directly resolved the matter to the complainant's satisfaction.

4 **COMPLAINT WITHDRAWN FOLLOWING EDITOR'S RESPONSE**

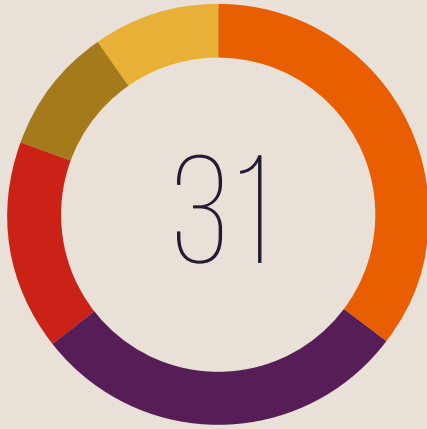
12 **CONSIDERATION POSTPONED BECAUSE SUBJECT MATTER OF COMPLAINT WAS SUBJECT MATTER OF ONGOING COURT PROCEEDINGS**

112 **COMPLAINT NOT PURSUED BEYOND PRELIMINARY STAGE BY COMPLAINANT**

These were cases where the complainant was given the contact details for the publisher, together with advice on the Code of Practice and how to make a complaint, but decided not to pursue the matter further with the Office after the initial contact. Some of these complaints may subsequently have been satisfactorily resolved following the submission of the complaint directly to the editor of the publication concerned.

3 **LIVE AT THE END OF 2017**

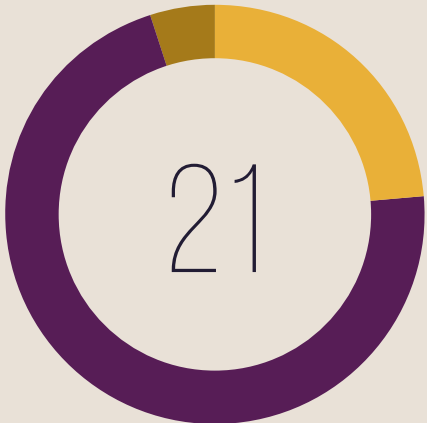
147 **OUTSIDE REMIT**
(SEE PAGE 8 FOR BREAKDOWN)



COMPLAINTS

resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant

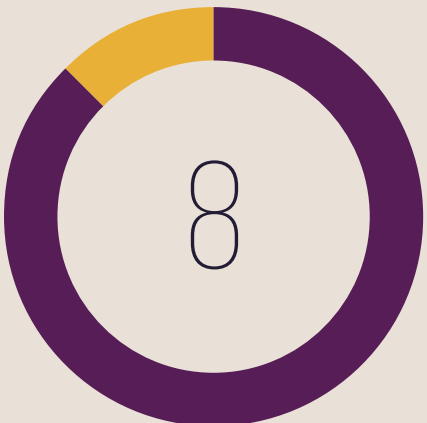
- 11** AMENDMENT OF ONLINE MATERIAL
- 9** PUBLICATION OF CORRECTION/CLARIFICATION/APOLOGY
- 5** UNDERTAKING ABOUT FUTURE COVERAGE OF SUBJECT MATTER OF ARTICLE
- 3** MEETING WITH EDITOR
- 3** PUBLICATION OF RIGHT OF REPLY



COMPLAINTS

decided by Press Ombudsman

- 5** UPHELD
- 15** NOT UPHELD
- 1** SUFFICIENT REMEDIAL ACTION OFFERED BY THE PUBLICATION



APPEALS

considered by the Press Council

- 7** NOT ALLOWED
- 1** ALLOWED



COMPLAINTS

outside the remit of the Office

46 MISCELLANEOUS

42 UNAUTHORISED THIRD PARTY

These were complainants who were not personally affected by an article, or who complained about an article written about another person, but without that person's permission to make a complaint.

18 OUT OF TIME

These complaints were received outside the three-month deadline for making a complaint.

25 PUBLICATION NOT A MEMBER OF THE PRESS COUNCIL

All national newspapers, most local newspapers, many magazines and some online-only news publications are members.

14 OTHER REGULATORY AUTHORITY

These were in the main for the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland or the Advertising Standards Authority of Ireland.

2 USER GENERATED CONTENT (UGC)



PUBLICATIONS

leading to complaint

186 NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS (PRINT AND ONLINE)

30 LOCAL NEWSPAPERS (PRINT AND ONLINE)

16* MAGAZINES

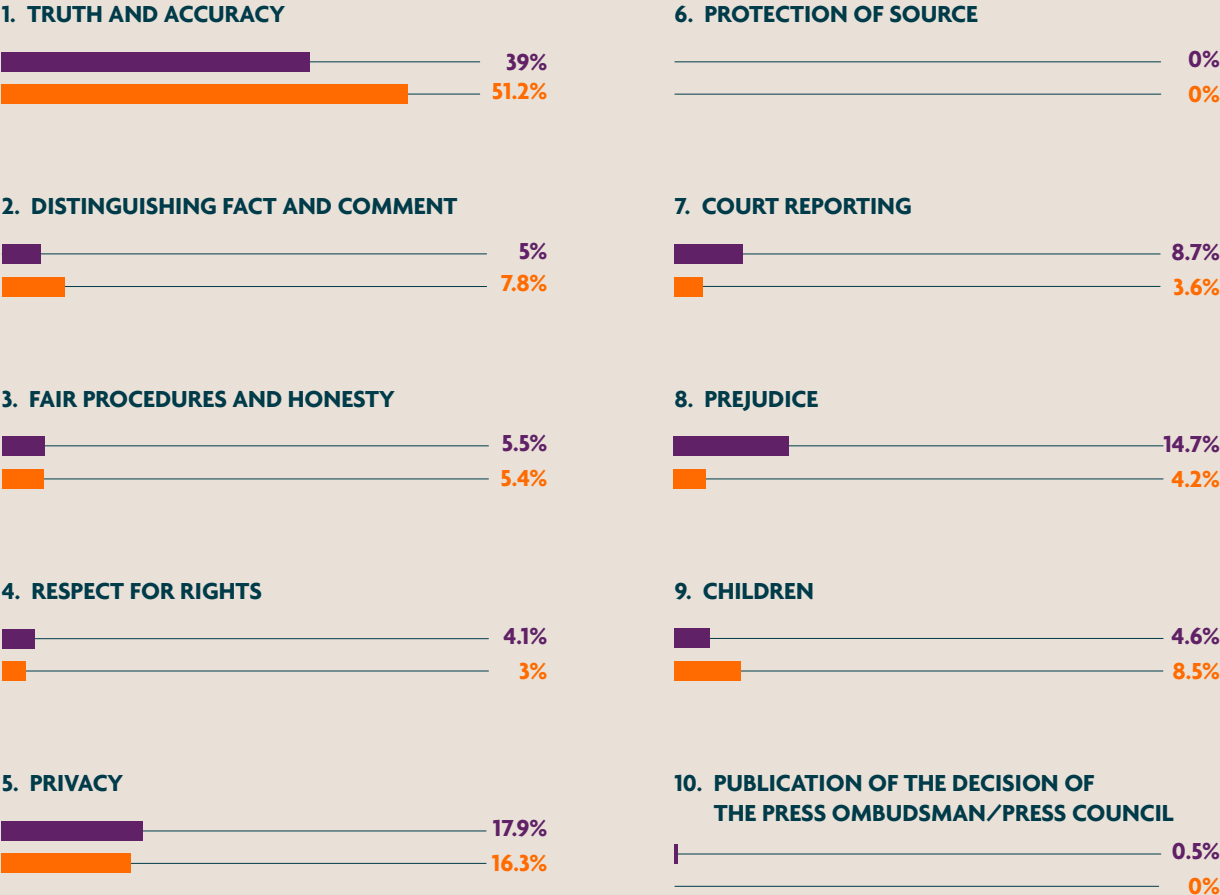
14 ONLINE-ONLY NEWS PUBLICATIONS

26 NON-MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

58 NOT INDICATED BY COMPLAINANT

PRINCIPLES OF CODE OF PRACTICE CITED BY COMPLAINANTS

2017
2016



Complainants often cite a breach of more than one Principle of the Code of Practice in their complaints.

Two-thirds of the complaints made under Principle 8 in 2017 related to two articles. The full Code is published on pages 32 and 33.

PRESS OMBUDSMAN'S REPORT

When the Office of the Press Ombudsman receives complaints a process of conciliation is undertaken by the Case Officer. It is only if a conciliated resolution isn't possible that a complaint is forwarded to the Press Ombudsman for a decision. In many instances complaints are resolved, to the satisfaction of the complainant and the publisher, without any formal decision having to be taken. In recent years editors have become more responsive to conciliated resolutions and as a result the number of formal decisions has declined.

The total number of complaints received in 2017 was 330. This was up on the number received in 2016 when 261 complaints were received. Thirty-one of these complaints were resolved through the conciliation process undertaken by the Case Officer. One might expect the number of complaints to reduce at a time of declining circulation of print publications. However increasingly newspaper content is accessed by the general public through the online publication of newspapers and this may explain why the number of complaints received has remained fairly consistent in recent years. One advantage of online publication is that errors and inaccuracies can be easily addressed by amending or deleting what has been published digitally. In 2017 there were many examples where prompt action in amending or deleting online articles led to complaints being resolved without any need for formal decisions.

As has been the case since the Office of the Press Ombudsman was established ten years ago the obligation on member publications to report accurately found in Principle 1 remained the most frequently cited cause for complaint. In 2017 the number of complaints that Principle 1 had been breached was 39% of the total number of Principles cited. This was down on the previous year when the figure was 51.2%. There was a marked increase in the number of complaints that cited Principle 8 (Prejudice) in complaints (up from 4.2% in 2016 to 14.7% in 2017), though most of the increase can be attributed to just two articles which generated multiple complaints.

In 2017 the Press Ombudsman made 21 formal decisions. He upheld five complaints (one of which was overturned by the Press Council on appeal), he did not uphold 15 complaints, and in one case he decided that the publication had offered to take action which was sufficient to resolve the complaint.

The major change in the last decade has been the growth in influence of social media. Legacy media, broadcasting and print, are no longer seen as having the same amount of influence as they had in previous decades.

The Office of the Press Ombudsman can only consider complaints about articles published in the Press Council's member publications. Increasingly public concern is being voiced about material published on social media. The impact of bullying, racism, misogyny, homophobia and inaccuracies found on social media has become more apparent and demands for social media organisations to accept responsibility for material found on their websites

has grown accordingly. There were some welcome indications in 2017 that social media organisations were beginning to accept that they had to put in place measures which would reduce the risk of harm. Maintaining a balance between the right to freedom of expression and the abuse of that right is not easy to achieve. Reliance on artificial intelligence (AI) programmes to achieve that balance, as advocated in many instances by social media organisations, can only play a small part in protecting vulnerable individuals. Human qualities such as good judgment, experience and wisdom remain essential in protecting freedom of expression and avoiding harm.



FOXY LADIES

by Lorraine O'Sullivan

"Grainne" the fox gets a better view of cyclists in the 2017 Rás na mBán, as she sits on the shoulder of Pat Gibbons.

There appears to be a contradiction between opinion poll results which indicate a worrying level of distrust in the media and a complaints handling process which finds very few breaches of the Code of Practice. In looking for an explanation for this one has to take into account that there has been a significant decline in public trust in all institutions over the last decade, not just in Ireland but throughout the world. This distrust may in part be justified but it is not unreasonable to look to the corrosive role played by intemperate, irrational and at times illogical commentary found in unmoderated social media. Whilst welcoming the opportunity which social media has played in allowing everyone participate in public debate it has to be said that public discourse has been damaged by the public space provided for conspiracy theorists, anti-science scaremongers and others who peddle their irrationality without any sense of responsibility. Irish media continues to play a vital role in providing information and rational commentary to balance some of the excesses found on social media.

The five upheld complaints in 2017 were as follows:

A Man and a Woman and the Irish Daily Star

A complaint was upheld that the Irish Daily Star breached Principle 1 (Truth and Accuracy) and Principle 5 (Privacy) in a report about a traffic accident. The newspaper failed to produce any evidence to support a claim made in the report that the complainant fled hospital at a time when he was wanted for questioning by the Garda. It was also found to have breached privacy requirements by publishing a photograph of the man's companion without any public interest justification.

A Man and the Irish Daily Star

A complaint was upheld that the Irish Daily Star breached Principle 1 (Truth and Accuracy) and Principle 2 (Distinguishing Fact and Comment) in a report that a man was wanted by the Garda for questioning. The newspaper published as fact something which was unconfirmed.

Mr Brian O'Donnell and Family and the Irish Independent

A complaint was upheld that the Irish Independent breached Principle 5 (Privacy) in the publication of a photograph of Mr O'Donnell within his home without his consent. To illustrate its report the newspaper published a photograph of the subject of the report standing inside his front door talking to a journalist. Mr O'Donnell was unaware that he was being photographed.

Emerald Business Consulting, City Trust & Corporate Services, Mr Danny Cox and The Irish Times

A complaint was upheld that The Irish Times breached Principle 1 (Truth and Accuracy) and Principle 3 (Fair Procedures and Honesty) in a report about allegations in a court case. The report was inaccurate when it stated that attempts to contact Mr Cox had been unsuccessful. The newspaper also gave insufficient opportunity to the complainants to respond to adverse allegations contained in the article.

Jamie Griffin, Ellen Griffin and the Herald

A complaint was upheld that the Herald breached Principle 2 (Distinguishing Fact and Comment) in a report about criminal activity. The newspaper published as fact unconfirmed accounts of criminal activities by Mr Griffin and provided no support for the claims.

The Herald appealed the decision to the Press Council. The Council did not affirm the decision of the Press Ombudsman and overturned it.

Advisory Notices

The Office of the Press Ombudsman on occasion issues Advisory Notices to editors in advance of publication, typically drawing editors’ attention to upcoming circumstances where there is likely to be media attention, often at times of tragedy and distress. Families are often fearful of media attention and seek the assistance of the Office of the Press Ombudsman. Typically, the reporting of funerals and inquests are the subject matter of these Advisory Notices, which are generally issued on a confidential basis. Eight Advisory Notices were issued in 2017. In addition to funeral and inquest reporting Advisory Notices were issued about caution in reporting on matters relating to suicide and to the use of language in reporting on drug-users. Feedback on the value of Advisory Notices was very positive in 2017.



PETER FEENEY
Press Ombudsman

SEARCHING FOR RESCUE 116

by Steve Humphreys

A member of the Irish Coast Guard looks out towards a misty Achill Island, as the search continues for Rescue 116, along the Blacksod coastline in Co. Mayo.





CASE OFFICER'S REPORT

The complaints process

Any reader of a publication that is a member of the Press Council of Ireland can make a complaint about an article or about the behaviour of a journalist if they feel that the article or behaviour breached the Press Council's Code of Practice. Through its conciliation and mediation service the Press Ombudsman's Office provides a quick, fair and free method of resolving complaints.

How complaints were resolved

In 2017, the vast majority of complaints were resolved to the satisfaction of complainants by

- the amendment of an online article
- the publication of a correction, apology, or clarification
- an undertaking by the editor on future coverage of the subject matter of the article under complaint
- the publication of a right of reply
- a meeting with the editor

The manner in which complaints are resolved will depend on a number of factors, including the nature of the complaint and whether the article was published in print, online or both.

Complaints involving grief and shock

Many of the complaints that were resolved through conciliation in 2017 involved situations of personal grief and shock. Such complaints can be extremely difficult in their nature, because grief is usually a very private experience, but when it becomes a matter of public interest, for whatever reason, it may get a lot of media coverage, and this can generate unwelcome attention and added grief for bereaved families.

Of course, this does not mean that the press cannot report on such matters. Nor does it mean that all such coverage is unwelcome. Many bereaved families welcome an approach by the press as an opportunity to tell their side of a story surrounding the tragic death of a loved one. Other families welcome the opportunity to give a first-hand account of the facts themselves.

But it remains the case that complaints are received from the families of people who have died in tragic circumstances. These types of complaints are treated with great sensitivity because not only do they require the same type of attention as a complaint from any other reader, but the person making the complaint may feel vulnerable and exposed, and will be deeply upset by the loss of the family member, and perhaps by the circumstances of that loss.

However, when complaints have been received about what families perceive to be insensitive or inaccurate reporting of information about a loved one, editors have been quick to accept the sensitivity of the matter involved and to address it accordingly. The following are some instances of how such complaints were addressed.

A woman complained about an article which reported on the murder of her brother, which she said contained inaccurate details of the circumstances surrounding his murder. The editor amended the online article and undertook to take the complainant's concerns into account if publishing any future material about the case.

A woman complained about an article reporting on the murder of her father abroad, which was accompanied by a photograph which caused her much distress. The editor apologised for the upset caused, deleted the photograph from its digital sites and Facebook, and guaranteed that the photograph would not be used again.

A woman complained about the publication in a number of newspapers of the eulogy she gave at her sister's funeral, who had been murdered, as the eulogy was inaccurately reported. The newspapers published a clarification of what was actually said in the eulogy.

A woman complained about an article which she said contained excessive detail in relation to an accident involving her uncle, who had been knocked down and killed while walking along the road. The newspaper published an apology for the upset caused.

A man complained about an article following the death of his son which, he said, appeared to attribute the cause of the fatal accident to his son. The newspaper published an article from the father giving his side of the story.

Deaths are a matter of public record, and the press are entitled to report on matters on the public record. The key lies in doing this with sympathy and discretion for the families involved. This does not mean that the press should not publish sensitive material, but that they should not report such material insensitively.

Mediation

Some complaints are resolved through mediation, which is a service our Office provides for editors and complainants to meet, on a strictly voluntary and confidential basis, to discuss a complaint with the aim of working towards an agreed resolution.

The Office is always happy to offer advice and assistance to anyone who, while not wishing to make a formal complaint, may seek guidance on how to proceed with an issue relating to the press.

Information Seminars

In 2017 we ran a number of information seminars for voluntary organisations and support groups. These seminars can be useful for advocacy teams, information officers and service users. They include an explanation of how a complaint about a member publication should be made, what can be complained about, and what the likely outcome will be. We use practical examples of complaints to highlight issues that may be of importance to our target audiences, and there is always room for audience participation throughout. Our Office is committed to publicising the service that we provide as widely as possible, and to seeking out opportunities to engage with the public so as to ensure that those services are familiar to anyone who might need them. Organisations should contact our office directly if they would like us to run an information seminar for their members.



BERNIE GROGAN

Case Officer



MIRIAM LAFFAN

PA/Administration





MURMURATION CLOUD

by Cyril Byrne

*Starlings gather to roost at Ballywilliam,
Co. Wexford.*

THE PRESS COUNCIL OF IRELAND

The Press Council of Ireland has 13 members, who ex officio constitute the Board of Directors of The Press Council of Ireland CLG. Independent members of the Council are appointed by an Independent Appointments Committee following a process of public advertisement, short-listing and interview. The remaining six members are drawn from the press industry and are nominated to the Council from the representative bodies NewsBrands Ireland, Local Ireland, Magazines Ireland and the National Union of Journalists.

In May 2017, Mr Patrick Smyth retired from his position as a member of the Press Council and was replaced by Mr Ruadhan MacCormaic.

At 31 December 2017 the members of the Press Council were as follows:

INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

- Mr Seán Donlon (Chairperson)
- Mr Brendan Butler (Deputy Chairperson)
- Ms Patricia Sisk Taormina
- Mr Denis Doherty
- Ms Denise Charlton
- Ms Patricia O'Donovan
- Dr Ruth Barrington

MEMBERS DRAWN FROM THE PRESS INDUSTRY

- Ms Norah Casey
- Mr Kevan Furbank
- Mr Deaglán de Bréadún
- Mr Ruadhan MacCormaic
- Mr Ken Davis
- Dr John J Lynch

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Press Council held its Annual General Meeting on 25 May 2017. The meeting approved the company accounts and re-appointed LMH Casey McGrath Ltd. as the company's auditors.

APPEALS

Either a complainant or a publisher may appeal a decision of the Press Ombudsman on one or more of three grounds: that there has been an error in procedure, that significant new information is available that was not available when the Press Ombudsman made his decision or that there has been an error in the application of the Code of Practice. In 2017 there were eight appeals (seven affirmed the decision of the Press Ombudsman, one overturned the Press Ombudsman's decision). The number of appeals was down from 13 in 2016.



THE IRON LADY

by David Fitzgerald

Laura Addie prepares to take part in the Ironman 70.3 competition at Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

REFERRALS

The Press Ombudsman has the option to refer a complaint to the Press Council. One complaint was referred to the Press Council in 2017. The Press Council found that the publication had taken sufficient remedial action to resolve the complaint.

CODE COMMITTEE

The Code Committee is responsible for keeping the Code of Practice under review, and updating it when necessary, in consultation with the Press Council. The Code Committee held a general review of the Code of Practice in 2017 and no changes were recommended.

MEMBERS OF THE CODE COMMITTEE

- Mr Brendan Keenan (Chairperson)
- Mr Kieran McDaid (Star Newspapers)
- Mr Colm MacGinty (Sunday World)
- Mr Cormac Burke (INM)
- Mr Colin Kerr (Euro Times)
- Mr Chris Dooley (The Irish Times)
- Mr David Burke (Tuam Herald)
- Mr Ian McGuinness (NUJ)
- Mr Peter Feeney (Press Ombudsman) (ex officio)

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

The members of the Press Council are appointed by an Independent Appointments Committee. The members of the Appointments Committee during 2017 were Mr Seán Donlon (Chairperson of the Press Council), Dr Maurice Manning, Mr David Begg and Ms Miriam Hederman-O'Brien.



Members of the Press Council of Ireland

Photo provided courtesy of The Irish Times

Back Left to Right:

Dr Ruth Barrington

Mr Kevan Furbank

Mr Deaglán de Bréadún

Mr Ruadhán MacCormaic

Mr Ken Davis

Mr Brendan Butler (Deputy Chairperson)

Ms Patricia Sisk Taormina

Front Left to Right:

Ms Denise Charlton

Mr Seán Donlon (Chairperson)

Ms Patricia O'Donovan

Missing from Photo:

Ms Norah Casey

Dr John J Lynch

Mr Denis Doherty

DOG DAY AFTERNOON

by Dara Mac Donaill

A man exercises his dog on Sandymount Strand, Dublin.



FINANCE REPORT

The finances of the Press Council of Ireland are provided, under the terms of its Constitution, by the Administrative Committee of the Press Council, and was chaired in 2017 by Brendan Butler Deputy Chairperson of the Council.

The Press Council and the Office of the Press Ombudsman are fully funded by member publications and each member title of the Council is levied in accordance with formulae determined by the Administrative Committee.

The Administrative Committee is charged with making full provision for the administrative needs of the Press Council and of the Office of the Press Ombudsman including funding, premises and staffing. It meets approximately eight times a year to approve funding arrangements, and receives reports on all expenditure. The Committee also agrees annual budgets with the Council.



LIGHTHOUSE LEAP

by Dara Mac Donaill

Cliff diver Anna Bader diving from North Bank Lighthouse, Dublin Bay, in preparation for the Diving World Series.

The Administrative Committee includes representatives of Newsbrands Ireland, Local Ireland, Magazines Ireland and the National Union of Journalists. It determines its own membership, with the exception of the Chairperson, who is appointed by the Press Council.

AT 31 DECEMBER 2017 THE MEMBERS WERE:

Brendan Butler (Chairperson)

Mr Adrian Acosta

Ms Grace Aungier

Mr Vincent Crowley

Mr Seamus Dooley

Mr Oliver Keenaghan

Mr David McDonagh

Ms Ann Marie Lenihan

Mr Eoin McVey

Mr Johnny O'Hanlon

The costs for 2017 of the Press Council and the Office of the Press Ombudsman, together with comparative figures for the previous year, were as follows:

	2017	2016
Directors' fees	€55,000	€60,000
Staff salaries	€228,895	€219,971
Employer PRSI contributions for staff	€13,750	€14,881
Retirement benefits		
- defined contribution scheme	€6,225	€6,132
Seminars	€2,758	-
Hotels, travel and subsistence	€1,449	€5,881
Printing and stationery	€6,564	€7,065
Telephone	€1,876	€1,764
Computer costs	€10,151	€12,440
Memberships	€1,247	€795
Legal and professional	€2,849	€15,656*
Auditors' remuneration	€3,670	€3,650
Bank charges	€256	€260
Sundry expenses	€1,124	€4,978
Rent, rates and services	€30,918	€80,333*
Cleaning	€1,427	€1,295
Insurances	€4,130	€3,983
Conference attendance costs	€1,806	€737
Management services	€20,000	€20,000
Annual Report and Launch	€4,096	€7,071
Meeting room facilities	€2,720	-
Relocation costs	-	€9,171
TOTAL	€400,911	€476,063

* includes the settlement for vacating Westmoreland Street premises - €47,500 rent settlement and €10,449 legal fees.

The full Directors' Report and Financial Statements for 2017 are available on the Press Council's website www.presscouncil.ie

MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS

Herald

Independent House,
27 – 32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.
01 705 5333
www.herald.ie

Irish Daily Mail

DMG Media (Ireland), 3rd Floor,
Embassy House, Herbert Park Lane,
Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.
01 637 5800
www.mailonline.ie

Irish Daily Mirror

2nd Floor, 9A Beckett Way, Park West
Business Park, Clondalkin, Dublin 12.
01 868 8600
www.irishmirror.ie

Irish Daily Star

Independent House,
27 – 32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.
01 499 3400
www.thestar.ie

Irish Examiner

Linn Dubh, Assumption Road,
Blackpool, Cork.
021 427 2722
www.irishexaminer.com

Irish Farmers Journal

Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12.
01 419 9599
www.farmersjournal.ie

Irish Independent

Independent House,
27 – 32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.
01 705 5333
www.independent.ie

Irish Mail on Sunday

DMG Media (Ireland), 3rd Floor,
Embassy House, Herbert Park Lane,
Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.
01 637 5800
www.mailonline.ie

Irish Sun

Watermarque Building, 1st Floor,
50 Ringsend Road, Dublin 4.
01 479 2579
www.thesun.ie

Irish Sun on Sunday

Watermarque Building, 1st Floor,
50 Ringsend Road, Dublin 4.
01 479 2579
www.thesun.ie

Irish Sunday Mirror

2nd Floor, 9A Beckett Way, Park West
Business Park, Clondalkin, Dublin 12.
01 868 8600
www.irishmirror.ie

Sunday Business Post

Hambleden House,
19/26 Pembroke Street Lower,
Dublin 2.
01 602 6000
www.businesspost.ie

Sunday Independent

Independent House,
27 – 32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.
01 705 5333
www.independent.ie

The Sunday Times

Watermarque Building, 1st Floor,
50 Ringsend Road, Dublin 4.
01 479 2579
www.sundaytimes.ie

Sunday World

Independent House,
27 – 32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.
01 884 8973
www.sundayworld.com

The Irish Times

The Irish Times Building,
PO Box 74, 24 – 28 Tara Street, Dublin 2.
01 675 8000
www.irishtimes.com

LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

Anglo Celt

Anglo Celt, Station House,
Cavan, Co. Cavan.
049 433 1100
www.anglocelt.ie

Bray People

Channing House,
Upper Rowe Street, Wexford.
053 914 0100
www.independent.ie

Carlow Nationalist

Hanover House, Hanover, Carlow.
059 917 0100
www.carlow-nationalist.ie

Carlow People

Channing House,
Upper Rowe Street, Wexford.
053 914 0100
www.independent.ie

Clare Champion

Barrack Street, Ennis, Co. Clare.
065 682 8105
www.clarechampion.ie

Connacht Tribune

15 Market Street, Galway.
091 536 222
www.connachttribune.ie

Connaught Telegraph

No. 1 Main Street, Castlebar,
Co. Mayo.
094 902 1711
www.con-telegraph.ie

Derry News

26 Balliniska Rd, Springtown
Industrial Est, Derry.
00 44 28 7129 6600
www.derrynews.com

Donegal Democrat

Pier 1, Quay Street, Donegal.
074 974 0160
www.donegaldemocrat.ie

Donegal News

St. Anne's Court, High Road,
Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.
074 912 1014
www.donegalnews.com

Donegal People's Press

Larkin House, Oldtown Road,
Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.
074 974 0160
www.donegaldemocrat.ie

Dundalk Democrat

7 Crowe Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth.
042 933 4058
www.dundalkdemocrat.ie

Enniscorthy Echo*

Slaney Place, Enniscorthy,
Co Wexford.
053 925 9900
www.wexfordecho.ie

Enniscorthy Guardian

Channing House,
Upper Rowe Street, Wexford.
053 914 0100
www.independent.ie

Evening Echo

Linn Dubh,
Assumption Road, Blackpool, Cork.
021 427 2722
www.eecho.ie

Gorey Echo*

Slaney Place, Enniscorthy,
Co. Wexford.
053 925 9900
www.wexfordecho.ie

Gorey Guardian

Channing House,
Upper Rowe Street, Wexford.
053 914 0100
www.independent.ie

Kildare Nationalist

Hanover House, Hanover, Carlow.
045 432 147
www.kildare-nationalist.ie

Kilkenny People

34 High Street, Kilkenny.
056 772 1015
www.kilkennypeople.ie

Laois Nationalist

Coliseum Lane, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
057 867 0216
www.laois-nationalist.ie

* Ceased trading in Autumn 2017

Leinster Express

107 Lower Main Street,
Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
057 862 1666
www.leinsterexpress.ie

Leinster Leader

19 South Main Street,
Naas, Co. Kildare.
045 897 302
www.leinsterleader.ie

Leitrim Observer

3 Hartley Business Park,
Carrick-On-Shannon, Co. Leitrim.
071 962 0025
www.leitrimobserver.ie

Limerick Chronicle

54 O'Connell Street, Limerick.
061 214 500
www.limerickleader.ie

Limerick Leader

54 O'Connell Street, Limerick.
061 214 500
www.limerickleader.ie

Longford Leader

Leader House, Dublin Road, Longford.
043 334 5241
www.longfordleader.ie

Mayo News

The Fairgreen, Westport, Co. Mayo.
098 253 11
www.mayonews.ie

Meath Chronicle

Market Square, Navan, Co. Meath.
046 907 9600
www.meathchronicle.ie

Munster Express

37 The Quay, Waterford.
051 872 141
www.munster-express.ie

Nationalist/Clonmel

Queen Street, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.
052 617 2500
www.nationalist.ie

Nenagh Guardian

13 Summerhill, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.
067 312 14
www.nenaghguardian.ie

New Ross Echo*

Slaney Place, Enniscorthy,
Co. Wexford.
053 925 9900
www.wexfordecho.ie

New Ross Standard

Channing House,
Upper Rowe Street, Wexford.
053 914 0100
www.independent.ie

Northern Standard

The Diamond, Monaghan,
Co. Monaghan.
047 821 88
www.northernstandard.ie

Roscommon Herald

St. Patricks Street, Boyle,
Co. Roscommon.
071 966 2004
www.roscommonherald.ie

Sligo Champion

Connacht House,
Markievicz Road, Sligo.
071 916 9222
www.sligochampion.ie

Southern Star

Ilenn Street, Skibereen, Co. Cork.
028 212 00
www.southernstar.ie

The Argus

Partnership Court, Park Street,
Dundalk, Co. Louth.
042 933 4632
www.independent.ie

The Avondhu

Avondhu Press, 18 Lower Cork Street,
Mitchelstown, Co. Cork.
025 24451
www.avondhupress.ie

The Corkman

The Spa, Mallow, Co. Cork.
022 423 94
www.independent.ie

The Drogheda Independent

9 Shop Street, Drogheda, Co. Louth.
041 983 8658
www.independent.ie

The Fingal Independent

Main Street, Swords, Co. Dublin.
01 840 7107
www.independent.ie

* Ceased trading in Autumn 2017

The Kerryman

Denny Street, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
066 714 5560
www.independent.ie

Tipperary Star

Friar Street, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.
0504 291 00
www.tipperarystar.ie

Tuam Herald

Dublin Road, Tuam, Co. Galway.
093 241 83
www.tuamherald.ie

Waterford News & Star

Gladstone House, Gladstone Street,
Waterford.
051 874 951
www.waterford-news.com

Western People

Tone Street, Ballina, Co. Mayo.
096 60 999
www.westernpeople.ie

Westmeath Examiner

Blackhall Place, Mullingar,
Co. Westmeath.
044 934 6700
www.westmeathexaminer.ie

Westmeath Independent

11 Sean Costello Street,
Athlone, Co. Westmeath.
090 643 4300
www.westmeathindependent.ie

Wexford Echo*

17 Selskar Street, Wexford,
Co Wexford.
053 914 2948
www.wexfordecho.ie

Wexford People

Channing House,
Upper Rowe Street, Wexford.
053 914 0100
www.independent.ie

Wicklow People

Channing House,
Upper Rowe Street, Wexford.
053 914 0100
www.independent.ie

MAGAZINES**Accountancy Ireland**

Chartered Accountants House,
47 – 49 Pearse Street, Dublin 2.
01 637 7392
www.accountancyireland.ie

Auto Trade Journal

Glencree House, Lanesborough Road,
Roscommon, Co. Roscommon.
090 662 5676
www.autotrade.ie

Business Plus

30 Morehampton Road, Dublin 4.
01 660 8400
www.bizplus.ie

Euro Times

ESCRS, Temple House, Temple Road,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin.
01 209 1100
www.eurotimes.org

Food & Wine Magazine

Harmonia Ltd., Rosemount House,
Dundrum Road, Dundrum, Dublin 14.
01 240 5300
www.foodandwinemagazine.ie

Hotpress

13 Trinity Street, Dublin 2.
01 241 1500
www.hotpress.com

Ireland of the Welcomes

Harmonia Ltd., Rosemount House,
Dundrum Road, Dundrum, Dublin 14.
01 240 5300
www.irelandofthewelcomes.com

* Ceased trading in Autumn 2017

Irish Auto Trade Yearbook & Diary

Glencree House, Lanesborough Road,
Roscommon, Co. Roscommon.
090 662 5676
www.autotrade.ie

Irish Bodyshop Journal

Glencree House, Lanesborough Road,
Roscommon, Co. Roscommon.
090 662 5676
www.bodyshop.ie

Irish Country Magazine

Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12.
01 419 9500
www.irishcountrymagazine.ie

Irish Medical Times

Merchants Hall, 25 Merchants' Quay,
Dublin 8.
01 817 6347
www.imt.ie

Irish Tatler Magazine

Harmonia Ltd, Rosemount House,
Dundrum Road, Dundrum, Dublin 14.
01 240 5300
www.irishtatler.ie

ITIA Yearbook & Diary

Glencree House, Lanesborough Road,
Roscommon, Co. Roscommon.
090 662 5676
www.tyretrade.ie

Law Society Gazette

Blackhall Place, Dublin 7.
01 672 4828
www.lawsocietygazette.ie

**Motorshow - Annual Car
Buyers Guide**

Glencree House, Lanesborough Road,
Roscommon, Co. Roscommon.
090 662 5676
www.motorshow.ie

RTE Guide

RTE Publishing, RTE, Donnybrook,
Dublin 4.
01 208 2920
www.rteguide.ie

Síocháin

Garda Síochána Retired
Members Association,
5 Harrington Street, Dublin 8.
01 478 1525
www.gardaretired.com

Stubbs Gazette

The Priory, Stillorgan Road,
Blackrock, Co. Dublin.
01 672 5939
www.stubbsgazette.ie

The Gloss

Gloss Publications Ltd., The Courtyard,
40 Main Street, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.
01 275 5130
www.thegloss.ie

The Irish Field

Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12.
01 405 1100
www.irishfield.ie

The Irish Journalist

NUJ, 2nd floor, Spencer House,
Spencer Row, Off Store Street,
Dublin 1.
01 817 0340
www.nuj.org.uk

TYRE Trade Journal

Glencree House, Lanesborough Road,
Roscommon, Co. Roscommon.
090 662 5676
www.tyretrade.ie

U Magazine

Harmonia Ltd., Rosemount House,
Dundrum Road, Dundrum, Dublin 14.
01 240 5300
www.umagazine.ie

Village

Ormond Quay Publishing,
6 Ormond Quay, Dublin 7.
01 873 5824
www.villagemagazine.ie

WMB

2nd Floor, Paradigm House, Dundrum
Office Park, Dundrum, Dublin 14.
01 296 4025
www.womenmeanbusiness.com

Woman's Way

Harmonia Ltd, Rosemount House,
Dundrum Road, Dundrum, Dublin 14.
01 240 5300
www.womansway.ie

Work & Life Magazine

IMPACT Trade Union,
Nerneys Court, Dublin 1.
01 817 1500
www.impact.ie

ONLINE ONLY NEWS PUBLICATIONS

Thejournal.ie

Journal Media Ltd,
3rd Floor, Lattin Hall,
Golden Lane, Dublin 8.
01 902 2487
www.thejournal.ie

Offaly Express

107 Lower Main Street,
Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
057 862 1666
www.offalyexpress.ie

Evoke.ie

DMG Media (Ireland),
3rd Floor, Embassy House,
Herbert Park Lane, Ballsbridge,
Dublin 4.
01 256 0800
www.evoke.ie

Breakingnews.ie

Landmark Digital, Assumption
Road, Blackpool, Cork.
01 499 3440
www.breakingnews.ie

Buzz.ie

Buzz.ie/Irish Daily Star, 1st Floor,
Independent House,
27 - 32 Talbot Street, Dublin 1.
01 499 3440
www.buzz.ie

Dublinlive.ie

2nd Floor, 9A Beckett Way,
Park West Business Park,
Clondalkin, Dublin 12.
01 868 8613
www.dublinlive.ie

Extra.ie

DMG Media (Ireland), 3rd Floor,
Embassy House, Herbert Park
Lane, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.
01 637 5800
www.extra.ie

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Icarus

House 6, Trinity College, Dublin 2
01 896 2335
www.icarusmagazine.com

JOLT - Journal of Literary Translation

House 6, Trinity College, Dublin 2
01 896 2335
www.trinitypublications.ie

Miscellany

House 6, Trinity College, Dublin 2
01 8962335
www.trinitypublications.ie

Motley

UCC Students Union, 54 College Road,
Cork
021 490 3218
www.motley.ie

Pirhana!

House 6, Trinity College, Dublin 2
www.trinitypublications.ie

SIN

Sin Magazine, C/o Students Union,
Aras na Mac Leinn, NUI Galway.
091 493 262
www.sin.ie

The College Tribune

PO Box 74, Students Centre, UCD,
Belfield, Dublin 4
01 716 8501
www.collegetribune.ie

The University Observer

UCD Sport and Student Centre,
Belfield, Dublin 4
01 716 3835
www.universityobserver.ie

The University Times

House 6, Trinity College, Dublin 2
01 896 2335
www.universitytimes.ie

TN2

House 6, Trinity College, Dublin 2
01 896 2335
www.trinitypublications.ie

Trinity Film Review

House 6, Trinity College, Dublin 2
www.trinitypublications.ie

Trinity News

House 6, Trinity College, Dublin 2
01 896 2335
www.trinitynews.ie

UCC Express

UCC Students Union, 54 College Road,
Cork
021 490 3218
www.uccexpress.ie

CODE OF PRACTICE

PREAMBLE

The freedom to publish is vital to the right of the people to be informed. This freedom includes the right of the press to publish what it considers to be news, without fear or favour, and the right to comment upon it.

Freedom of the press carries responsibilities. Members of the press have a duty to maintain the highest professional and ethical standards.

This Code sets the benchmark for those standards. It is the duty of the Press Ombudsman and Press Council of Ireland to ensure that it is honoured in the spirit as well as in the letter, and it is the duty of Press Council print and online media members (the press) to assist them in that task.

In dealing with complaints, the Ombudsman and Press Council will give consideration to what they perceive to be the public interest. It is for them to define the public interest in each case, but the general principle is that the public interest is invoked in relation to a matter capable of affecting the people at large so that they may legitimately be interested in receiving and the print and online news media legitimately interested in providing information about it.

PRINCIPLE 1 **TRUTH AND ACCURACY**

1.1 In reporting news and information, the press shall strive at all times for truth and accuracy.

1.2 When a significant inaccuracy, misleading statement or distorted report or picture has been published, it shall be corrected promptly and with due prominence.

1.3 When appropriate, a retraction, apology, clarification, explanation or response shall be published promptly and with due prominence.

PRINCIPLE 2 **DISTINGUISHING FACT AND COMMENT**

2.1 The press is entitled to advocate strongly its own views on topics.

2.2 Comment, conjecture, rumour and unconfirmed reports shall not be reported as if they were fact.

2.3 Readers are entitled to expect that the content of the press reflects the best judgment of editors and writers and has not been inappropriately influenced by undisclosed interests. Wherever relevant, any significant financial interest of an organization should be disclosed. Writers should disclose significant potential conflicts of interest to their editors.

PRINCIPLE 3 **FAIR PROCEDURES AND HONESTY**

3.1 The press shall strive at all times for fair procedures and honesty in the procuring and publishing of news and information.

3.2 The press shall not obtain information, photographs or other material through misrepresentation or subterfuge, unless justified by the public interest.

3.3 Journalists and photographers must not obtain, or seek to obtain, information and photographs through harassment, unless their actions are justified in the public interest.

PRINCIPLE 4 **RESPECT FOR RIGHTS**

Everyone has constitutional protection for his or her good name. The press shall not knowingly publish matter based on malicious misrepresentation or unfounded accusations, and must take reasonable care in checking facts before publication.

PRINCIPLE 5 **PRIVACY**

5.1 Privacy is a human right, protected as a personal right in the Irish Constitution and the European Convention on Human Rights, which is incorporated into Irish law. The private and family life, home and correspondence of everyone must be respected.

5.2 Readers are entitled to have news and comment presented with respect for the privacy and sensibilities of individuals. However, the right to privacy should not prevent publication of matters of public record or in the public interest.

5.3 Sympathy and discretion must be shown at all times in seeking information in situations of personal grief or shock. In publishing such information, the feelings of grieving families should be taken into account. This should not be interpreted as restricting the right to report judicial proceedings.

5.4 In the reporting of suicide, excessive detail of the means of suicide should be avoided.

5.5 Public persons are entitled to privacy. However, where people hold public office, deal with public affairs, follow a public career, or have sought or obtained publicity for their activities, publication of relevant details of their private life and circumstances may be justifiable where the information revealed relates to the validity of their conduct, the credibility of their public statements, the value of their publicly expressed views or is otherwise in the public interest.

5.6 Taking photographs of individuals in private places without their consent is not acceptable, unless justified by the public interest.

PRINCIPLE 6 **PROTECTION OF SOURCES**

Journalists shall protect confidential sources of information.

PRINCIPLE 7 **COURT REPORTING**

The press shall strive to ensure that court reports (including the use of images) are fair and accurate, are not prejudicial to the right to a fair trial and that the presumption of innocence is respected.

PRINCIPLE 8 **PREJUDICE**

The press shall not publish material intended or likely to cause grave offence or stir up hatred against an individual or group on the basis of their race, religion, nationality, colour, ethnic origin, membership of the travelling community, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, illness or age.

PRINCIPLE 9 **CHILDREN**

9.1 The press shall take particular care in seeking and presenting information or comment about a child under the age of 16.

9.2 Journalists and editors should have regard for the vulnerability of children, and in all dealings with children should bear in mind the age of the child, whether parental or other adult consent has been obtained for such dealings, the sensitivity of the subject-matter, and what circumstances if any make the story one of public interest. Young people should be free to complete their time at school without unnecessary intrusion. The fame, notoriety or position of a parent or guardian must not be used as sole justification for publishing details of a child's private life.

PRINCIPLE 10 **PUBLICATION OF THE DECISION OF THE PRESS OMBUDSMAN / PRESS COUNCIL**

10.1 When requested or required by the Press Ombudsman and/or the Press Council to do so, the press shall publish the decision in relation to a complaint with due prominence.

10.2 The content of this Code will be reviewed at regular intervals.

PRESS COUNCIL
OF IRELAND



OFFICE OF
THE PRESS
OMBUDSMAN

3 Westland Square, Pearse Street, Dublin 2, DO2 N567.

T: 01 6489130 LoCall: 1890 208 080 Email: info@pressombudsman.ie

www.presscouncil.ie

www.pressombudsman.ie